



West Virginia Employment Report

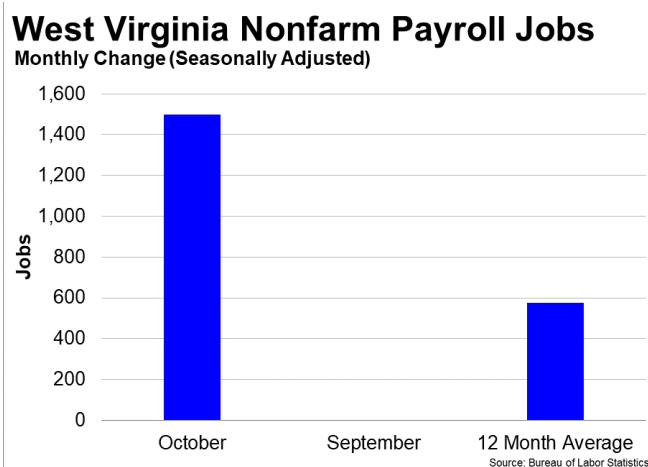
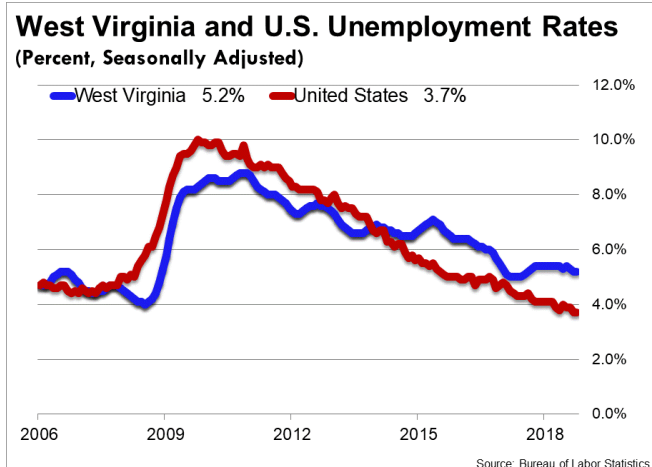
Joint Economic Committee

Representative Erik Paulsen, Chairman

November 16, 2018

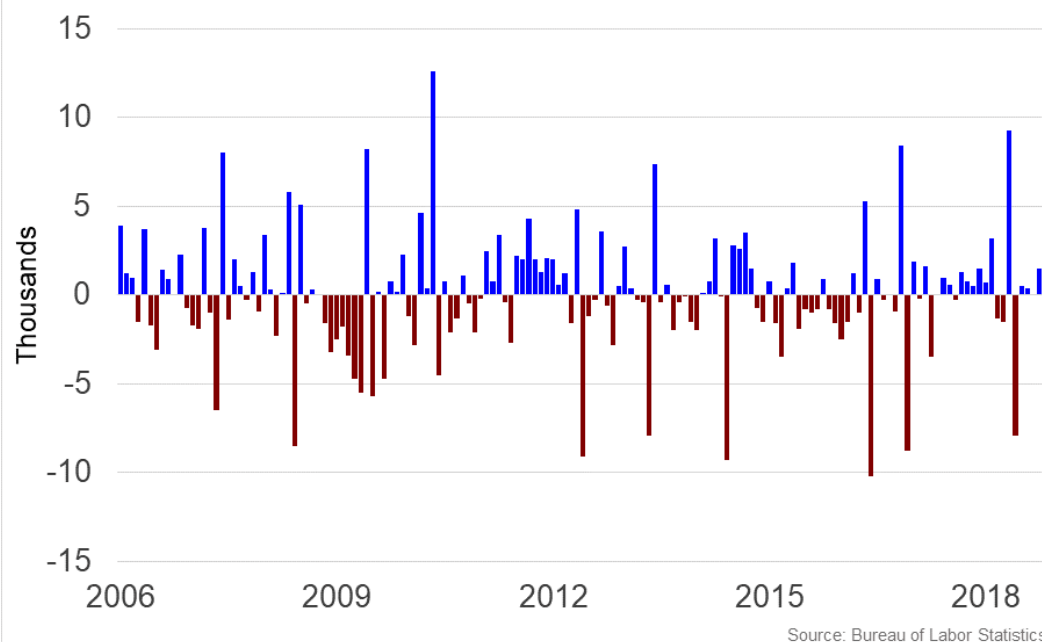
Summary

- **West Virginia added 1,500 jobs and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.2 percent in October** according to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data.
- **Over the past twelve months, West Virginia added 6,900 jobs** and the unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage point from 5.4 percent.
- **In October, West Virginia's private sector added 1,300 jobs** and over the past twelve months it created 5,000 jobs.
- The number of **unemployed West Virginians fell by 193 in October**, and over the past year 686 West Virginians found jobs.
- West Virginia's **labor force participation rate remains unchanged** from 53.8 percent in October. Since last year, the labor force participation rate rose 0.2 percentage point.
- The national unemployment rate **was unchanged at 3.7 percent in October**. State employment and unemployment data for November is scheduled for release on December 21, 2018. The national employment situation report for November will be released on Friday, December 7, 2018.



West Virginia Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

Monthly Change (Thousands, Seasonally Adjusted)



West Virginia Payroll Employment

West Virginia added 1,500 jobs, or 0.20 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during October. In the prior month, West Virginia didn't add or lose jobs. Over the past twelve months, nonfarm payrolls in West Virginia increased by 6,900, or 0.92 percent. West Virginia nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 8 of the past 12 months.

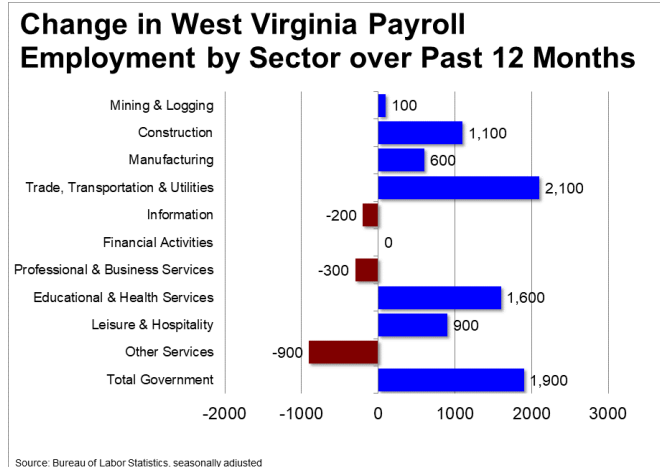
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 250,000 jobs in October, or 0.17 percent. Over the 12-month period ending October 2018, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,516,000 jobs, or 1.71 percent. West Virginia ranks 15th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During October, West Virginia's private-sector added 1,300 jobs, or 0.22 percent. The private-sector in West Virginia lost 100 jobs in the prior month. Over the past twelve months, private-sector payrolls in West Virginia increased by 5,000, or 0.84 percent. West Virginia private-sector payroll employment has increased in 7 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs increased by 246,000 jobs in October, or 0.19 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,450,000 jobs in the private-sector, an increase of 1.96 percent. West Virginia ranks 16th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

Four or more tied for the best performing sector on a seasonally adjusted basis during October. The poorest performing sectors during the month were Professional & Business Services (-300) and Mining & Logging (-100).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+2,100) and Total Government (+1,900). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Other Services (-900) and Professional & Business Services (-300).



West Virginia Labor Force Statistics

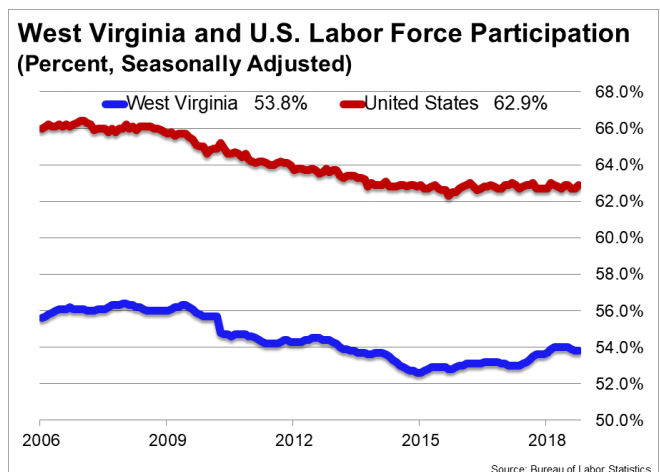
Labor Force Participation

The labor force participation rate in West Virginia was unchanged at 53.8 percent in October. At 53.8 percent, West Virginia has the lowest labor force participation rate in the nation. The labor force participation rate in West Virginia is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in West Virginia was 56.3 percent in June 2009. The series high for the labor force participation rate in West Virginia occurred in April 2001 when the labor force participation rate hit 56.9 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 52.6 percent in January 2015. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in October 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 50.3 percent. The national labor force participation rate rose by 0.2 percentage point to 62.9 percent in October, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.

Employment-to-Population Ratio

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the West Virginia civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, was unchanged at 51.0 percent in October. At 51.0 percent, West Virginia has the lowest employment-to-



population ratio in the nation. The employment-to-population ratio in West Virginia is 0.3 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in West Virginia was 53.3 percent in November 2008. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in West Virginia occurred in April 2001 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 54.1 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 49.1 percent in April 2015. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in April 1983 when the employment-to-population ratio was 42.2 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.2 percentage point to 60.6 percent in October. That rate was 0.4 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

